

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 14, as follows. All claims in the application are reproduced below in accordance with current U.S. Patent and Trademark Office requirements.

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method adapted to an image forming apparatus which forms an image on a sheet and discharges the sheet to a stacking unit adapted to stack sheets, said method comprising:

causing said image forming apparatus to operate in one of a first mode for discharging the sheet to said stacking unit in the image formed face-up condition and a second mode for discharging the sheet to said stacking unit in the image formed face-down condition;

selecting one of said first mode and said second mode;

a control step of making ~~different~~ lower an amount of sheets stacked in said stacking unit in said first mode ~~and~~ than an amount of sheets stacked in said stacking unit in said second mode.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein said control step inhibits the discharge of a sheet to said stacking unit when an amount of sheets in said stacking unit reaches a first amount during discharging in said first mode, and does not

inhibit the discharge of a sheet to said stacking unit when an amount of sheets in said stacking unit reaches the first amount during discharging in said second mode.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein said control step inhibits the discharge of a sheet to said stacking unit when an amount of sheets in said stacking unit reaches a second amount during discharging in said second mode, wherein said second amount is larger than said first amount.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein said image forming apparatus forms the image based on an image data from an external apparatus input via a predetermined interface on the sheet.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, the sheet discharged in the first mode is a sheet having inferior stackability, and wherein the sheet discharged in the second mode in a sheet having preferable stackability.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein said image forming apparatus performs the first mode for discharging the sheet to said stacking unit in the image formed face-up condition to discharge sheets having inferior stackability including envelopes, cardboards or overhead projector sheets.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein said control step uses data from a sensor adapted to detect sheets on said stacking unit.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein said control step uses data from a counter adapted to count a number of discharged sheets.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein said selecting step selects one of the first mode and the second mode based on input setting in a host computer to output an image data.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein said image forming apparatus discharges a sheet on which is formed an image based on an image data from said host computer to a stacking unit selected in said host computer from a plurality of stacking units.